MONTEREY NEWS

August 1999
VOLUME XXIX · Number 8

The Town

© Cathy Cavell

Get me to the church on time!
Parade Master Ellen Pearson drives the Wedding Bells Horse and Carriage.

I Love Monterey Day. This year's celebration of our town, held on July 17, was a rousing success. Despite another heat wave with temperatures into the high 90s, many townsfolk came out for all the activities of the day. The Meeting House bell rang out clear and long and carried to the edges of town for all to hear. Musical and theatrical talent was unhindered by the scorching heat, and local musicians played on into the dark while the townspeople danced in squares and lines.

The silent auction yielded enough funds for future celebrations and people enjoyed good food and drink prepared by The Roadside Store and Café crew with Gould Farm bounty.

We are grateful for all the support and participation and looking forward to many more Monterey Days to come.

Peter Brown of the Select Board "had a really good feeling about the day, despite the heat...." He said, "The town really appreciates the community spirit that holds Monterey together in an event like this."

The Parade Master, the peerless Ms. Pearson, Speaks: The six-donkey hitch from Hillsdale balked as only donkeys can do and never left the barn, but we had a gaggle of giggling clowns, a rousing pickup band with Glockenspiel, Carol Husten and friends singing their original Bell Song, a fire truck, Eric Roper's vintage truck bearing Land Trust "Belle Vista" slogans, Joe and Kathy Wasiuk, and friends in a '57 Chevy convertible, Cora Baker and Tarsi Dunlop dancing with bells on their ankles, Belle Starr herself riding PeeWee and toting a water gun, and two substantial floats created by Gould Farm, one depicting the Center School at the turn of the century (Jacob Markwood ringing the old school bell) and the other displaying a typical dining tableau at Gould Farm, complete with the dinner bell. I found myself a bona fide bride-and-groom-to-be for my Wedding Bells Horse and Carriage, and we all drifted through the steamy air like a shimmering mirage.

I am grateful for all the help and willing participation on Monterey Day and many days beforehand. The church bell pealed and rang blessings upon us, even as we gave honor to its mellow tone. Thanks to Everybody!! —Ellen

The Music Man, the tuneful Karl Finger, sings out praise: I would like to thank all those who contributed to the wonderful music provided for Monterey Day this year.

Members of the awesome parade band were Arnie Hayes (leader, trumpet), Allan Dean (trumpet), Mark Dosier (trumpet), Ed Herbst (trombone), Christal Costello, (clarinet), Michelle Horner (Glockenspiel), Joe Baker (tuba), Karl Finger (bass drum), Bonner McAllester (snare drum), Steve Snyder (flute), Carly Thomas, (flute), Judy Hayes (cymbals), and Virgil Stucker (saxophone).

After the parade, several horn players from the band sat in at the Gazebo,

and we had our own Monterey/New Orleans Jazz jam session. Then the folk strings, etc., took over with fiddles, bass, guitars, washboard, washtub, kazoo, steel drum (pan), bones, spoons, jug, and steel guitar, playing music of varied styles for over an hour. After the Gould Farm Players' presentations, the band re-formed for the square dance. With the weather so hot, we decided to dance outside on the grass, and with the stimulating live music the enthusiastic dancers survived the elements for two hours, ending the day in joyous exhaustion.

The musicians who so admirably braved the heat and humidity to provide the music for the Gazebo and square dance were: Arnie Hayes (trumpet and band leader), Gareth Backhaus (sound equipment), Allan Dean (trumpet), Ed Herbst (trombone), Steve Enoch (bass guitar, tuba), Morgan Rael (guitar, washtub bass, steel drum), Joe Baker (tuba, guitar), Bonner McAllester (hammered dulcimer), Jim Caron (fiddle), Alex Caron (fiddle), Anson Olds (fiddle, guitar), Lukas Schwartz (fiddle), Karl Finger (guitar, kazoo, vocals, caller), Tom Weldon (vocals, spoons, bones, jug, what-have-you), Anita Carroll-Weldon (washboard, spoons, kazoo, etc.), Tom Barnes (guitar). Thanks, guys! — Karl

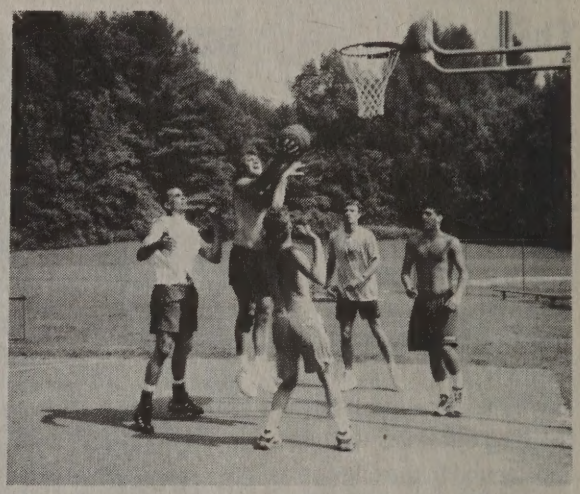
(The *News* believes that Karl should be awarded a Monterey Day Iron Man award. He played in the basketball tournament, as well as playing in the parade band, then playing at the Gazebo, and playing and calling at the dance. Way to go, Karl!)

The Gould Farm Players, directed by Monica Wahlberg, entertained an appreciative audience at the Gazebo with three skits: "English Made Simple," written by David Ives and performed by Angie P. and Todd P.; "All Summer in a Day," based on a Ray Bradbury story, performed by Anne B., Aimée H., and Lindsey K.; and "Sure Thing," written by David Ives and performed by Jim M. and Heidi H.

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

Christen R. providded stage-crew support. The Players thank the Monterey Day Committee and the Select Board for providing sound equipment.

Athletic Events. The *News* was unable to dispatch a reporter to the scene of the basketball tournament (organized by Jay Amidon), and the memories of the players of the event were a bit fuzzy or even conflicting. An accurate accounting is further hampered by playground basketball etiquette requiring that only first names be used. However, the editor has been able to piece together the following likely story. There were seven teams, at least four of which had names: the Beartown Bears, the Highlanders, Housydome, and Kenny's Kids. The other three teams were lost to memory, disappearing into the summer haze after being eliminated. After about four hours of round-robin play in sweltering midday heat, the Beartown Bears (the Ohmans *père* and *fils*, and Chad) beat the Highlanders (Jay, Kevin, and Bill) in the finals. So that's the report from Green Park. But, as I say, I wasn't there.



© Fran Amidon

The Highlanders leap over Housydome.

The 4.5 mile Knox Trail Run was held on Sunday morning, July 18. The men's winner was Carlos Rivera in a time of 25 minutes, 25 seconds; second was Art Reilly in 25:32, and third was Bill Borla in 26:07. The women's winner was Robin Hathaway in 32:08, with Vallentina Bopossova second in 33:36, and Pam Roberts third in 34:35.

Reports were sketchy from the sandcastle contest; four teams entered, with D and T emerging as winners in a dirty fight.

Other News of the Town. New regulations for tobacco awareness and septic and well specifications were passed after pubic hearings were held on June 28 at Town Hall. The details of the new regulations are on file and available for any Monterey citizens interested.

A meeting of the Edith Wilson House committee was scheduled for Tuesday July 27 at 4:00 p.m. at the Town Offices. The committee met with members of the finance committee to consider future plans for the Town.

The Select Board is still looking for a few good citizens to serve on the following town councils: The Council on Aging; The Cultural Council, and the Conservation Commission. If you are interested in serving on any of these councils please contact the Select Board, which meets every Monday except holidays at 7:00 p.m..

Town bids were opened and accepted by the Town on July 19, one from Roger Tryon for equipment related to highway work and one from Leigh Tryon for sand and gravel.

Transfer Station renovation plans are in the works. Drawings are now being finalized and engineering specifications drawn up. There will be updates as the plans near completion.

The Fire Department received delivery of their new rescue boat. There are reliable reports of Muriel Lazzarini, Chair of the Selectboard, receiving a ride on the boat to test its water worthiness. There may even be a photograph of this momentous occasion. The *News* has assigned an investigative reporter to the case.

— Amy Goldfarb

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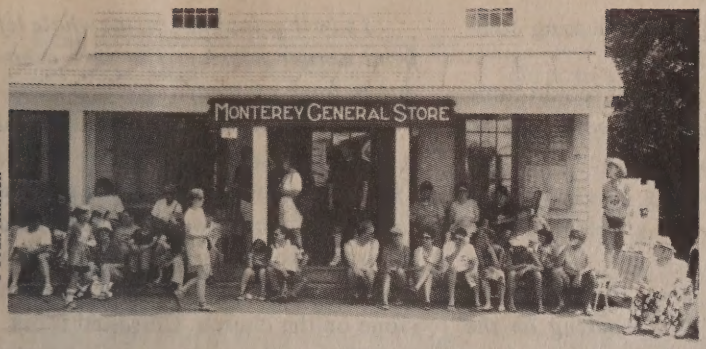

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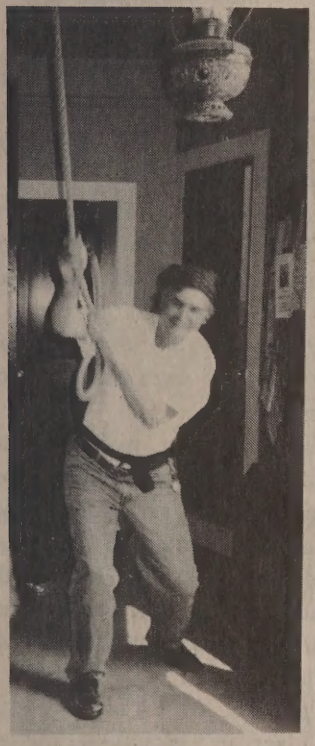
92 in the shade (count 'em)

© Fran Amidon

The only breeze on a sultry day was felt when the Wasiuks rode by in their '57 Chevy and all the guys over 45 sighed.



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Wayne Dunlop peals!

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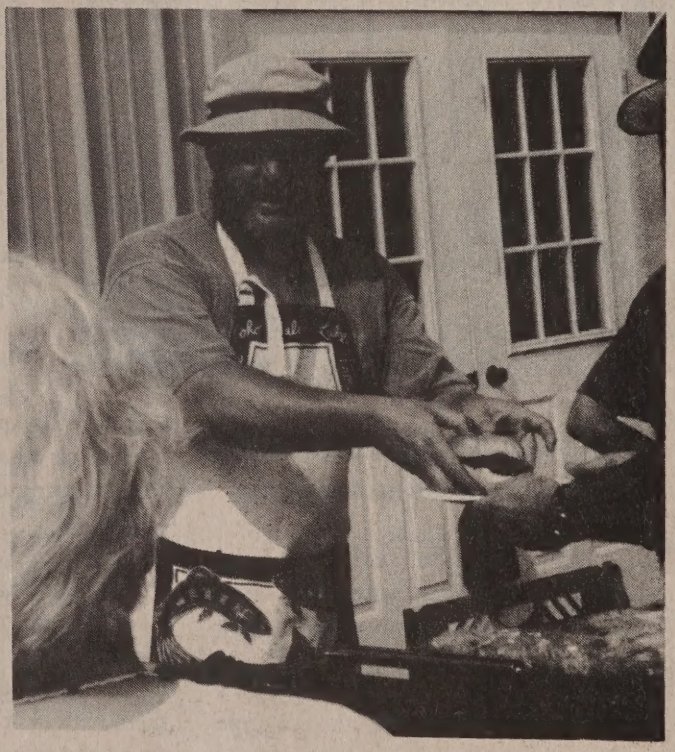
Clowns Monica & Maureen overcome Coriolis effect



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Burger Meister Brian Snyder: over thirty sold and counting

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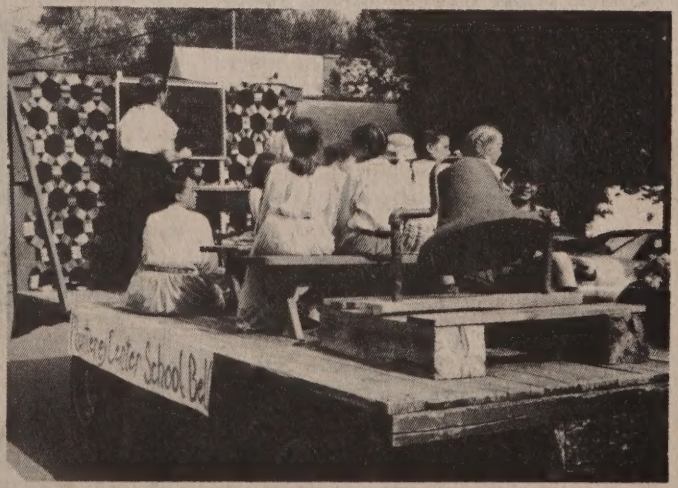
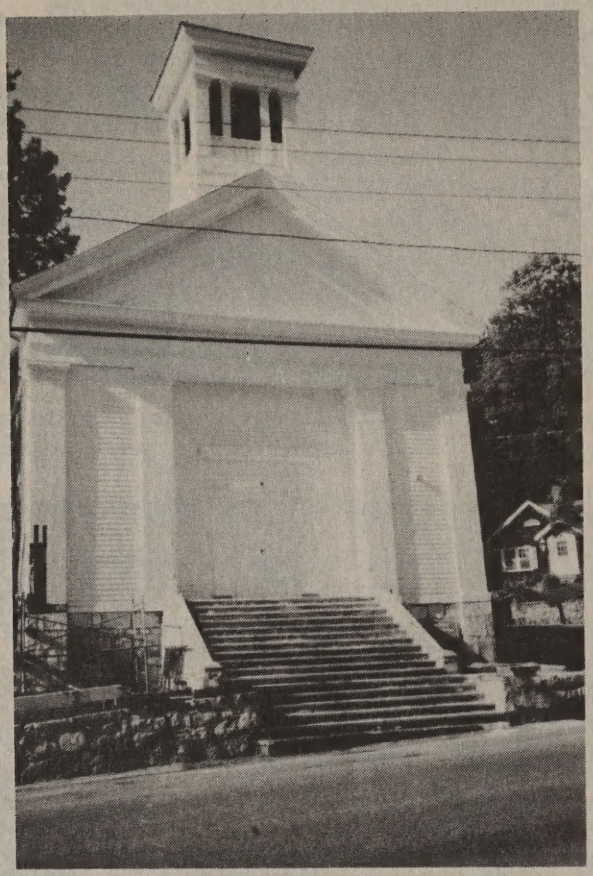
Hardy Monterey band heads west



© Wayne Dunlop

Jacob Markwood and Monterey Center School extolled



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Preserving the Meeting House

Interview with the Stonemasons

"What we didn't expect to find were these crumbling things," Jeff Gray said as he pushed aside a tawny rock cracked in several places.

He was on one of the church's upper steps, now bared of the concrete that used to cover them. June sun reflected intensely from the exposed stones: pearly gray, somewhat irregular blocks in neat stepped rows. He pointed to two hollow troughs where steps should have been. They looked a little like gaps in an otherwise pearly set of teeth.

"That shows you how many stones were bad. They were sandstone, and it doesn't hold up. They must have looked looked alright when they were put in."

Nearby were Rudy Annecharico, his son Andy, and his late brother Charles's son, Allen. Jeff Gray is Rudy's son-in-law. Together, as Annecharico Construction Co., they have worked most of a year on the masonry involved in the Meeting House's preservation. The work is nearing completion.

I asked if I could come by the following day to interview them for the *Monterey News*. Permission was granted.

When did you know you'd be working on the church?

Rudy Annecharico (in plaid shirt, suspenders, denims, with straw safari hat): It was clear to me that the foundation needed repair. There had been some preliminary talk three years ago. Everything went through the proper channels. Jeff's more on the details. I haven't been very active here.

I've seen you here almost every day!

I'm trying, well, not to get in the paper, you know. I've lived here all my life—local schools, Great Barrington. Forty-seven years in business.

When did your work begin here?

October last year. By winter the work was not complete on the underpinning and foundation. We had to dig down, we found loose stones, reinforced them with concrete. The whole cornerstone had to be rebuilt—

I saw that last month, the whole left front corner missing. I'm sure everyone in town noticed.

We took it all apart and had to put it back together again. Same stones. The mortar had deteriorated and deteriorated, broken down through the natural process of aging. We repointed the major part, about 90 percent of all the stone on the church. Chiselled it out.

This wall is striking now. I hadn't noticed it before.

It was covered with concrete that was cracked and deteriorated. The steps too.

You're not re-covering it?

It's being done to the architect's specifications; no coating is being done.

Did they give you a picture of the way it was, an old picture?

I've seen some pictures, they're around. There were old wooden steps. In the early 1900s, I think, they were replaced with stone and concrete.

Are these [the slabs that were laid on the tops of the steps they had finished] concrete?

Those treads are quarried sandstone, cut to size on commercial saws. We found a lot of sandstone stones which had deteriorated. Granite held up. Sandstone rocks that formed the risers had to be dug out and replaced with durable stone, which we had around the place.

The place?

Our place, in Sandisfield. The settlers took them out of the fields and

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used them for walls, that's where we got them. Thanks to the settlers.

Will the new treads hold up, if they're sandstone?

Being that it's taken out of a solid piece, I would say yes. My estimate is it has marble in it, out of the marble quarry in Lee. Those risers in the steps we've finished are granite. We had to shape them, reset a lot of them, bring them up to grade.

Bring them up to grade?

Take out the stones, put a new concrete bed under them. Then the treads can be put on. They have to be even. All of these steps *[there are many of them, and they are quite broad]* have to measure exactly 6¾ inches high. Sometimes we change the shape, for the ones that are too high.

How?

Mason's hammer and chisel.

Are there many people who know how to do that?

Real stonemasons—they're here but they're older people. Younger people don't want to do the work. It's father and son. My son, Andy ... Jeffrey. It's handed down ... Allen.

Here's Keith Snow. He'll be able to tell you more about the history of the church. He's the parson; do you know him?

Keith Snow (wearing dark shiney glasses against the noon glare): Your history's as good as mine. *[To me]* They're doing really good work. What kind of things do you need to know?

I was curious about anything relating to the work.

K.S.: June Tryon has old postcards with pictures of the church. In the twenties or thirties there might have been a change—there was a sidewalk here, a wall, elm trees on both sides, and the road was higher up, and narrower.

(At the gate edge of a brown pickup truck parked in front of the church are six squarish or oddly shaped granite blocks, grouped like giant jigsaw pieces not yet assembled. A second pickup holds a diesel fuel tank and a tool shelf with manilla rope, a hard hat, chisels and hammers, different size pointing trowels, a level, right angle iron—Rudy Annecharico has identified these for me.)

There's probably a plumb bob in there—

R.A.: Yeah. This is Allen's truck.

Allen Annecharico (wearing a white T-shirt with neon color pictures of Lebanon Valley racing cars, a baseball hat, and denims): There's a chalk line, a thing for tying steel, different tapes for marking ...

Tying steel? [He's holding a small tool, a wooden handle with an angled, swivelling hook.]

R.A.: I thought you might ask about that. For the rods in reinforced concrete. You use it to tie them together with wire before you get the concrete down.

© Rena Gill

Stonemasons (l-r) Allen Annecharico, Jeff Gray, Rudy Annecharico, Andy Annecharico

Allen, how does it feel to work in the middle of Monterey?

A.A.: Busy. I'm used to working in the woods.

On houses?

I don't do a lot of masonry. I do stone walls, excavating, drainage—basically underground. We did all the drainage around the church—three-quarters' way around.

Did you find surprises?

We found a lot of water. A lot. We weren't expecting that much.

Any artifacts?

We didn't find much.

Did that surprise you? What did you expect to find?

Oh, a gold watch. Change. Something. There was nothing, even under the steps! They must have been poor people. *[Noticing his cousin Andy, who had been hosing down some treads off to the side, approaching]* I've been away for a couple of weeks. He's been doing all the work.

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R.A.: This is Andy. He's my son. He's a mason's tender.

What does that mean you do, as a mason's tender?

Andy Annecharico (wearing a red T-shirt, a baseball cap, and denims): When he starts lining up the rocks, I go right behind him and support them. Say there's two inches between the rocks—you judge the thickness, and mitemize your mortar.

Mitemize?

Look at it, place it in.

How does it dry?

Sun and the dryness of the rock.

That's what does it?

If you don't want it too dry—

It can be too dry?

If it dries too fast it'll crack, you lose your support.

How do you know when you can begin pointing it up?

Usually by the feel, and texture of the mud.

Mud?

Regular sand and cement. It'll dry to a nice light gray.

Like this?

No, that's the old cement! You can see the rough texture.

Oh, this much smoother part. It's still dark gray. How is it different from the mortar you use to support the rocks?

It's the same stuff.

Your T-shirt says "Get a life." How long have you been working on this?

Since last year, on the underground part with my cousin. Then on this part since April. It was cooler in April! This is a time-consuming job.

(A set of iron railings waiting to be installed made a sharp black contrast leaning against the newly pointed granite stones of the reconstructed foundation. Heat radiated from the baking steps. Rudy Annicharico, working partial days, had gone. Jeff Gray was having a late lunch in the church basement. I went in to find him.)

Jeff Gray: What do you think?

(His voice surprised me. The sun outside had been strong. I asked when he thought they'd finish.)

It has to be done by the end of the month.

What's still to go?

Just the front stairs. We have to get more treads, from Lee Marble and Granite. We tell them what size. He cuts them up and puts the nosing on it.

Nosing?

Rounding off the sharp edges. We still need to replace some of the cracked risers.

How do you pick what you need?

We need a good face, and one that fits. Rock walls are the tough ones. They have to look halfway decent, and they have to line up all the way through.

So it's only that kind of wall where the stones have to be so exact in all dimensions?

For steps and buildings you see less of it. It does have to fit, that's what makes it good. It's like a jigsaw puzzle.

Are you happy with the work?

People around the town, they know about it. Under the ground, they don't see it, the concrete work, the side wall. It's been easy except for the front steps—the broken stones. It's hard to set cut stone on top of what's already there and get 6¾ inches exact on each.

Can't you make adjustments on the treads?

You can't chisel them out, the stone's too hard. So you dig out the whole riser, and hope for the best. Going over what they had is harder than starting all over. But it's good. The church will look nice.

— Rena Gill

Lake Garfield Association

Whether or not we live on Lake Garfield, we all benefit from its presence. The lake is part of the essential spirit of our community and is one of the factors that make the town of Monterey a very special place. Lake Garfield's waters reflect our history and our future. As we canoe, sail, boat, ski, swim, fish, or just gaze at the lake, each of us must consider its well-being and what we can do to protect it. Now, more than ever before, we must work together to ensure the lake's future. Your help is needed to:

a. Take immediate action to control the Eurasian milfoil weed before it chokes and kills the lake.

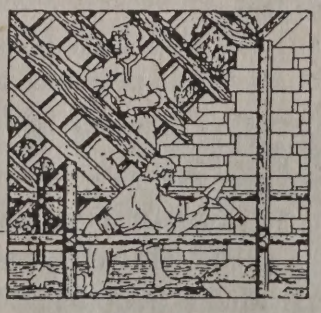
b. Improve highway safety around the beach on Tyringham Road to protect our children and grandchildren.

c. Investigate ways to protect the lake for the future.

d. Add more voices to those of others in Western Massachusetts seeking to preserve our lakes and ponds.

We are all stakeholders whether or not we live on the lake. The quality of life in the town and the economic value of our property are directly enhanced by Lake Garfield.

Please support the efforts to protect the lake. You can do so by becoming a volunteer working with the Lake



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Garfield Association on various projects directed toward securing the lake's future. You can add monetarily to our efforts, too, by becoming a member ($20 per family) and/or contributing to the special fund to purchase weevils to control the Eurasian milfoil.

All are invited to join the Lake Garfield Association. The final meeting of the summer will be held at the Firehouse on Saturday, August 28, at 10:00 a.m.

If you wish more information, call Judy Bach at 528-9636 or write to the Lake Garfield Association, Box 7, Monterey.

— Judy Bach

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Jubilee 2000

In the June issue I mentioned Bread for the World's call for support for the legislation entitled "Proclaim Jubilee: Break the Chains of Debt" and the Debt Relief For Poverty Reduction Act (H.R. 1095). The June meeting of the G-7 plus one in Cologne, Germany, addressed this issue and backed away from the radical debt relief that is necessary. What the leaders accepted was a halfway measure. Much more needs to be done!

Simply stated, the cancellation of the backlog of unpayable debt of the poorest countries—most of which are in Africa—will not on its own eradicate poverty. But it will signal the beginning of an effort to remove the barriers for dramatic improvements in healthcare, education, and employment.

Around the world the religious community is expressing increasing concerns about the accelerating concentration of wealth in the Western nations and the everlasting burden of debt upon the most impoverished nations. Since the late 1970s, the disparity of wealth between the industrialized nations of the West and the poor nations of the South has grown exponentially. Today the debt load carried by many of these nations is beyond ever being repaid. The forty-one "Poor Countries"—thirty-three of them in Africa—last year owed approximately $220 billion in foreign debts. This translates to an African child inheriting $379 in debt at birth, in countries where the average annual income is often $100 or less. In Nicaragua, even before the devastation of hurricane Mitch last year,the debt burden for each child was $2,000, while the average annual income is $300.

Payment on these debts must be in hard currency (U.S. dollars or sterling). Exacerbating the situation, many of these nations have experienced long-term declines in prices of their primary exports (coffee, cocoa, cotton). As export earnings drop, governments cannot keep up interest payments, which are then added to the unpaid principal of the debt. For many nations the debt is higher now than ever.

Debt cancellation has been implemented in the past with positive results for the nations assisted and without doing damage to the donor's or the global economy.

The recent Twenty-second General Synod of the United Church of Christ meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, voted to call its members to work for the reduction of debt and relief of poverty. And I urge you, the reader, to act in like manner by contacting your legislative representatives in Washington. Addresses: U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510; U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

— Keith Snow

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Y2K Preparedness

In dealing with the many concerns and possible outcomes of Y2K, one must prepare and not try to predict.

After attending meetings and defining areas of concern for the Town of Monterey, we have found that there are only limited reasons for serious concern in *our* town. We feel that if people within the community take reasonable precautions and use common sense, December 31, 1999, will be nothing more than the last day of the decade. NEES and Northeast Utiltiies, the major suppliers of electricity for Massachusetts Electric Company, have been Y2K-ready since June 30, 1999, and have contingency plans in effect should a temporary outage occur. Bell Atlantic was also Y2K-ready as of June 30, 1999; however they have some concerns that their transformers may be overloaded if everyone were to pick up the phone to hear a dial tone at midnight on January 1, 2000. Therefore, people are asked to put their curiosity aside and not test their phones at the stroke of midnight. If it is necessary to place a call, please wait at least fifteen to twenty minutes after midnight.

There are other precautions that we are suggesting, and these are the same things you should be doing to prepare for any type of storm or emergency. This information is contained in the brochures "Y2K: What You Should Know" and "Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit," written by the American Red Cross. If you have not gotten these brochures you can pick them up at the Town Hall. We feel that if you follow the guidelines in these brochures you will be prepared for *any* type of emergency. Also, please don't wait until the last minute to purchase your supplies. Planning now will help to prevent shortages created by last-minute consumers.

For more information on Y2K, the federal government has a toll-free number: 1-888-USA-4Y2K (1-888-872-4925). Internet enthusiasts can try one of the following web sites: www.magent.state.ma.us/y2k; www.y2k.gov; www.redcross.org; www.year2000.com; or http://millennia-bes.com. And remember, in the event of a serious emergency tune your radio to WSBS (AM 860) to receive further emergency instructions.

— Gareth J. Backhaus
Chief of Police

◆

Y2K
How You Can Be Prepared

The following information is reprinted from the American Red Cross brochure "Y2K: What You Should Know" (available at the Town Offices). Beyond the things listed here there is also another obvious and most important thing, which is true all the time— we are a community and the community is us. Get to know your neighbors, and check on and help each other.

The Year 2000 technology problem, or bug, as it is sometimes called, was created in the early days of computers, when memory in computers was scarce and expensive. Programmers took shortcuts whenever possible to save space. Instead of using a four-digit code for year dates, a two digit entry was used. The practice persisted, long after the need to save space was eliminated. The two-digit code also was used in embedded chips, which exist in many devices that control processes, functions, machines (like cars), building ventilation systems, elevators, and fire and security alarm systems, which are part of our everyday lives.

When the year 2000 comes, programs that have been coded with two-digit codes will not distinguish between the year 2000 and 1900. If the program includes time-sensitive calculations or comparisons, results are unpredictable. No one knows what problems may occur, how widespread they may be, or how long they will last. The good news is that federal, state, and local governments; banks and other financial institutions; retail businesses; and every other group affected by this problem have been working to resolve it, and a

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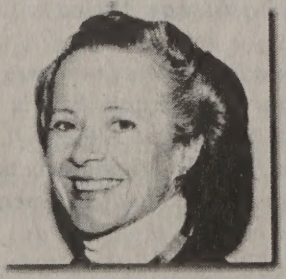

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great deal of progress has been made.

Most people anticipate Y2K problems may happen December 31, 1999, at midnight. Many experts predict that the problem is more likely to be a persistent one over a few years rather than a single "crash."

For example, there may be a computer-based problem with other dates, such as April 9, 1999, which is the 99th day of the year, or on 9/9/99. In the past, a series of nines was used to indicate termination of computer programs, and some experts believe that when all nines show up in a date sequence, some computer systems could read it as a program termination command.

There also is some concern regarding fiscal year 2000 dates in those organizations with fiscal years that start earlier than December 31, 1999. Also, the year 2000 is a leap year, and the leap year date 02/29/00 may be a problem for some computer programs as well.

Because no one can be certain about the effects of the Y2K problem, the American Red Cross has developed the following checklist for you. These are some easy steps you can take to prepare for possible disruptions. All of these recommendations make good sense, regardless of the potential problem.

• Check with manufacturers of any essential computer-controlled electronic equipment in your home to see if that equipment may be affected. This includes fire and security alarm systems, programmable thermostats, appliances, consumer electronics, garage door openers, electronic locks, and any other electronic equipment in which an "embedded chip" may control its operation.

• Stock disaster supplies to last several days to a week for yourself and those who live with you. This includes having nonperishable foods, stored water, and an ample supply of prescription and nonprescription medications that you regularly use. *[A detailed list of recommended supplies to have on hand is given in the American Red Cross brochure "Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit," available at the Monterey Town Offices.]*

• As you would in preparation for a storm of any kind, have some extra cash or traveler's checks on hand in case electronic transactions involving ATM cards, credit cards, and the like cannot be processed. Plan to keep cash or traveler's checks in a safe place, and withdraw money from your bank in small amounts well in advance of 12/31/99.

• As you would in preparation for a winter storm, keep your automobile gas tank above half full.

• In case the power fails, plan to use alternative cooking devices in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Don't use open flames or charcoal grills indoors.

• Have extra blankets, coats, hats, and gloves to keep warm. Please *do not* plan to use gas-fueled appliances, like an oven, as an alternative heating source. The same goes for wood-burning or liquid-fueled heating devices that are not designed to be used in a residential structure. Camp stoves and heaters should only be used out of doors in a well-ventilated area. If you do purchase an alternative heating device, make sure it is approved for use indoors and is listed with the Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

• Have plenty of flashlights and extra batteries on hand. Don't use candles for emergency lighting.

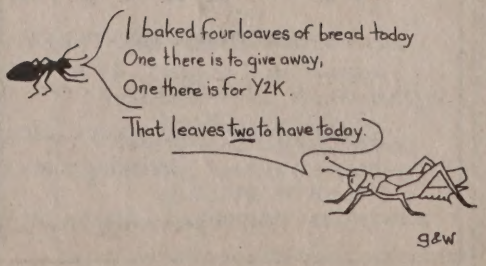
• Examine your smoke alarms now. If you have smoke alarms that are hard-wired into your home's electrical system (most newer ones are), check to see if they have battery back-ups. Every fall, replace all batteries in all smoke alarms as a general fire safety precaution.

• Be prepared to relocate to a shelter for warmth and protection during a prolonged power outage or if for any other reason local officials request or require that you leave your home. Listen to a battery-operated radio or television for information about where shelters will be available.

• If you plan to use a portable generator, connect what you want to power directly to the generator; do not connect the generator to your home's electrical system. Also, be sure to keep a generator in a well-ventilated area—either outside or in a garage, keeping the door open. Don't put a generator in your basement or anywhere inside your home.

• Be an advocate and support efforts by your local police, fire, and emergency management officials to ensure that their systems will be able to operate at all times.

◆



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The Bidwell House

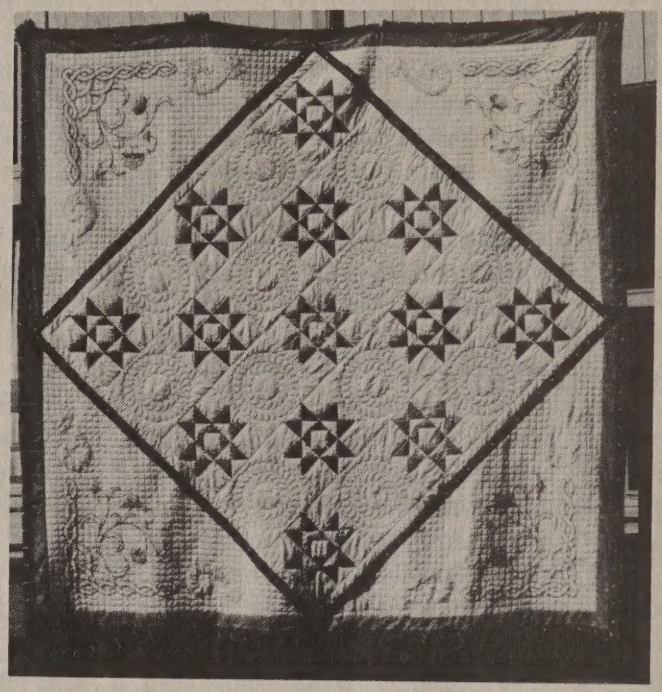
Quilt Raffle. The celebration of the Town's 150th anniversary inspired a group of local women to form a quilting group and make a memorial wall hanging to present to the town. Called The Monterey Piece Makers, the members are Marcia Doelman, Jan Emmons, Pam Johnson, MaryKate Jordan, Gige O'Connell, Glynis Oliver, Barbara Tryon, Anita Carroll-Weldon, and Carole Zarlin.

The quilters had such a great time that they decided to tackle another project this past winter. The result is a fabulous blue and white quilt. "Truly a work of art," as one admirer put it. The fabric is all cotton and it is hand pieced, hand embroidered, and hand quilted. It is sized to fit a queen-size bed, but it can be used on a full-size or king-size (used with a skirt).

The feathered star quilt in The Bidwell House collection inspired the pattern for this *Stars in the Garden* quilt. Unique features of this quilt are the embroidered corner panels, which use traditional patterns from a combination of eighteenth-century crewelwork, Deerfield blue and white embroidery, and quilting patterns from other Bidwell House whole cloth quilts.

The quilt is being raffled off to benefit The Bidwell House. Raffle tickets are on sale most weekends at the Monterey General Store and at The Bidwell House. The drawing will take place on Sunday, October 10, at the Harvest Home: Fall Family Days at The Bidwell House.

If you would like to make this quilt your own, write for tickets to The Bidwell House, PO Box 537, Monterey, MA 01245, or phone 413 528-6888. Good luck! And remember. the proceeds go to benefit The Bidwell House museum!



© Carole & Martin Zarlin

This beautiful blue and white hand-stitched quilt could be yours. Raffle tickets available at The Bidwell House.

Needlework Exhibit, Lecture, and Workshop. The Bidwell House will exhibit a portion of the museum's collection in August. This year the focus is needlework.

As indicated in newspaper advertisements, diaries, and journals, there were three classifications of needlework in the eighteenth century: plain sewing, marking, and fancywork. Plain sewing consisted of hemming, seaming, and the construction of simple garments. Marking was the cross-stitching of initials, numbers, and dates to keep accounts of household linens. It was considered essential for every woman to have knowledge of plain sewing and marking. Fancywork was embroidery, tambour, crewel, and canvas work or needlepoint; it was usually done by more privileged girls whose parents could afford to send them to embroidery school.

The needle and colored thread turned many a household item or piece of clothing into an artist's canvas. Bed hangings, seat cushions, upholstery, vests, jackets, wallets, petticoats, pockets—all these became surfaces to decorate. Learning the art of fancywork was often begun at an early age. And the sampler was a means of learning and remembering traditional stitches.

Sampler embroidery was a custom in England as early as 1502. The sampler showed the variety of stitches and their possibilities. It focused on the beauty and technique of the stitch and served as the pattern book of the past. Samplers were exercises of embroidery technique, often made by young girls as products of school instruction. Schoolgirl samplers, especially of the early nineteenth century, often have similar elements: an alphabet; stylized plants and flowers; a house-like building; a verse; and the name and age of the person who stitched it.

The Bidwell House collection has three such samplers. One bears the name Eleanor Smith, and is dated 1835. The second is not dated but was made by Mary Ann Bella at the age of thirteen years. The third unfortunately has stitches so faded that the name is impossible to read, although the following verse remains legible:

Industry taught in early days
Not only gives the teacher praise
But gives pleasure when we view
The work that innocence can do

This lovely piece of work was executed by a twelve-year-old.

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These samplers along with a stump work box, embroidered hand-woven towels, a tatted bed valance, needlepoint wallet; needlepoint pillows; and antique sewing tools will all be highlighted in a special exhibit of The Bidwell House Needlework collection. The exhibit will run from August 10 through September 6 and will be included as part of the house tour. House tours run Tuesday through Sundays from 11:00 to 4:00. Admission is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors, and $1 for children.

A lecture on the exhibit and historic needlework as women's art will be held at The Bidwell House on Friday, August 27, at 4:30 p.m. Dr. Pat Warner, a textile and clothing historian and professor at the University of Massachusetts, will present the lecture. Her presentation will include a slide show of other textiles to illustrate the history of needlework art as well as The Bidwell House collection. Admission for the needlework lecture is $7.

To enable our visitors to understand the art of fancywork , the museum is offering a Keepsake Embroidery Workshop where participants can more closely examine the samplers in the exhibit and make a contemporary heirloom sampler inspired by the traditional stitches. Workshop participants will receive a piece of linen, a kit with patterns to transfer to the fabric, an embroidery hoop and floss, handouts on stitches, and information on the history of samplers. They will learn to execute several types of stitches and will learn to make their own samplers. The workshop will be held on August 28 from 10:00 to 4:00. Admission is $35, which includes materials. The class is limited to twelve, so please reserve your place early.

Garden Workshop. The final in a series of programs sponsored by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities will be held on Saturday, August 21, at 2:00 p.m. "Gardens: Historic & Contemporary" is a talk and tour that will examine The Bidwell House heirloom garden, comparing the modern quarter with the other three historical quarters—from 1750 through 1900. Participants will learn about the pressures that create trends in horticulture and discover why certain gardening techniques and varieties became outmoded. This program is free. For information and workshop reservations please call 413 528-6888.

October Fall Family Days. If you "put up" fruit preserves, specialize in fruit pies, or bake an outstanding cake, plan on entering it in The Bidwell House Fall Family Days fair and you might win a blue ribbon for your efforts. The fair is scheduled for October 9 and 10 and will offer fun for the whole family, including hayrides, old-fashioned children's games and a wood sawing competition. If you would like to enter your confections please call 413 528-6888.

The Bidwell House apologizes to anyone who came to the museum for the Colonial Encampment in June. Unfortunately the Encampment had to be canceled at the last moment because the organizer and narrator for the event had to be hospitalized for an operation. There was no way of contacting visitors other than a sign at the foot of the road. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

— Anita Carroll-Weldon

Monterey Historical Society
Calendar of Events

The program on "The Historic District" which had originally been announced for August has been postponed into September due to scheduling difficulties encountered by Betsey Friedberg of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The exact date will be clarified in next month's issue.

Friday, August 20, 6:30 p.m. The Monterey Historical Society will meet on site for a guided tour of the gardens at *"Ashintully"* in Tyringham. The parking area is east of the intersection of Monterey Road and Main Road in Tyringham.

In 1965 Mr. John McLennan gave a very interesting and charming presentation to the Society members about the history of the estate and his childhood there. The next day we were privileged to view the gardens where he explained various aspects of his design. Once again we can look forward to visiting the property and being enchanted by a wondrous world of an exceptional garden. The gardens at the site of this former Berkshire Palace are now under the care of the Trustees of Reservation, and there is an ongoing effort to establish an endowment to care for them. Mr. Steve McMahon, of the Trustees, will guide our visit. The hour chosen is an especially beautiful time; however, it is important to protect oneself with insect repellent.

Visitors are encouraged to join us, but please register beforehand : 528-3698.

— Cynthia Weber

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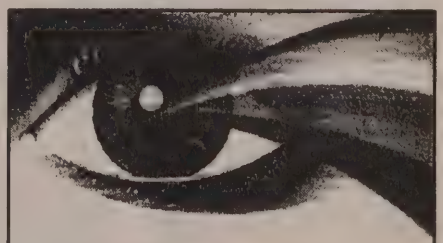

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dog day blues

(for J.)

dog days early
a hot breath blowing
over the slowly turning brown
grass
over the picked cool morning
vase of peonies
one by one
red stamens
gold tipped drop
on the white rug
spelling some eastern alphabet
and words
east of wonder
they say
"we didn't come all this way
to lose you to drought!"
sooner or later
thunder calls
the air is charged
we and the green
appreciate
thunder water
by singing again
tell me again how you felt,
a little boy
standing in the rain
alone
by the edge of the pond

— R. Zukowski

The Point

Stringing words together
to second-guess the gods.

Truth du jour in syntax.

How true can true love be?

Doubts creep in.
Decisions drive me
into a corner.

I'm so kept in her.

Her little zoo.

Truth will, as usual,
ruin, but now,
before it does,

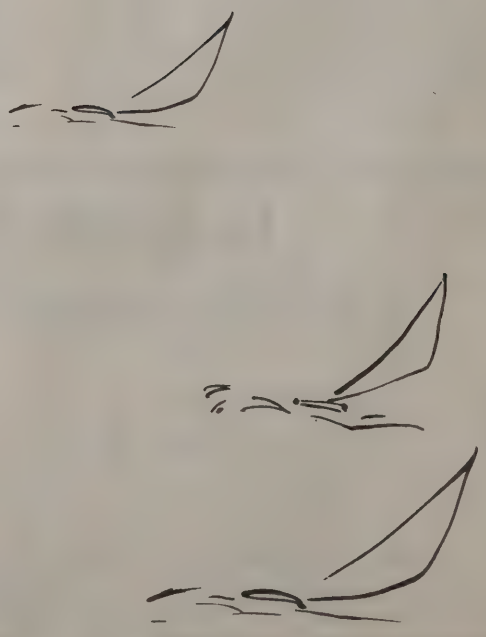
I'm stuck on the point
of her.

— Peter Shepley

Cape Cod

Sea shells
Large swells
Gulls in groups
Windswept sloops
Finback whales
Large flat tails
Sand sand sand
Water and land
Moonlit night
Star light bright
Things on mind
Left behind

— Wayne Dunlop



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Deep, Deep Peace Gently Gathering
While all of the birds came out to sing
I could not hear another solitary thing
Quietly let Freedom Ring

A Subtle Seed of Love wafted into thick air
Came and lingered softly Everywhere
Peaceful as the fallen snow, though lost to a summer's haze
A Glorious High left in his open gaze

Sow me deeply and wear this Grace
The Love that lay waiting to fulfill this face
A Crown of Care, to become more Aware
Of All that each moment may come to Bare

For all the years waiting, sorrow leaves only a trace
Peaceful Sweet Release, lay all to its place
Show me such Beauty in Your soft longing face
And leave here no bitter aftertaste

— April Grace Thomas

Orchard Street: New York

Before the first day, my Moschele
we were sewn together
like a pair of gloves
or slippers
on a beggar's pushcart

do not complain,
of the pain, old man
it hurts me as much as you
pulling at the stitches

look at it this way
we haven't been used yet!

— A. O. Howell

Changes

I look down
around my feet—
I see
brown
and russet
Oak leaves-
leathery,
notched,
with heavy veins.
Long pine needles,
brown
but thick
and sturdy.
Sweet the scent
When sun beats down,
I drink it in
with pleasure.
Fall-like scents
and sights
and sounds—
Brittlely they rattle.
But between those
thick brown leaves
I see
Tiny sprouts,
Pale green spears
Pushing between
pine needles
"Here—here—
We are here!"
Spring comes
Despite the fall,
And winter's
cold, dark
Battle.

— Louise Henry

Senator Says

Senior Pharmacy Program. I am very pleased to cosponsor two bills to expand the Senior Pharmacy Program. Senate Bill 493 would expand the program using revenue from the attorney general's settlement with tobacco companies, while Senate Bill 1334 would fund the expansion through an increase in the tobacco tax.

The Senate's budget would appropriate thirty million dollars from the state's general fund to expand the Senior Pharmacy Program and would provide that the funding for future years derive from the proceeds of the state's tobacco settlement. The prescription drug benefit would be doubled from $750 to $1,500 and the income eligibility guidelines expanded. The program would also extend coverage to all seniors who meet the income eligibility guidelines, whether or not they are enrolled in an insurance program with drug benefits. With this new provision, seniors who have exhausted their prescription coverage could take advantage of the prescription drug benefits from the Senior Pharmacy Program.

Minimum Wage Hike. The State Senate approved an increase in the state's minimum wage during last month's fiscal year 2000 budget debate. An identical minimum-wage increase provision was adopted last year by the Senate and proposes to increase the state's minimum wage by $.50 over the next two and a half years, raising the minimum wage from its current $5.25 to $6.75 by September 1, 2000. The budget amendment provides that the minimum wage would be raised from $5.25 to 5.75 as of September 1998, from $5.75 to $6.25 in September 1999, and then to $6.75 in the year 2000. In September of 2000, the minimum wage would be indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Our working citizens should be able to stay one step ahead of consumer prices and be able to build financial stability for themselves. Estimates demonstrate that when calculating a $6.75/hour wage with the federal earned income tax credit, a dual-income family of four will be brought just above the poverty line. Thirty-six percent of those collecting the minimum wage are heads of households. Over 63 percent of those earning the minimum wage in Massachusetts are women.

The CPI has increased between 2 and 3 percent in the last few years and has averaged an increase of 3.4 percent over the last 10 years. If the minimum wage had been indexed since 1968 (when it was $1.60), it would now be $7.60 an hour.

The Senate minimum wage hike recognizes the gap that has continued to grow between the 'haves' and 'have-nots' in the work world of the commonwealth. Over the three years of these minimum wage increases, more than 200,000 people will be affected. This amendment will go a long way in closing the gap. In the past the legislature and governors have been unable to make the minimum wage keep pace with the economy. This increase for those in our work force making some of the lowest wages of all those employed reflects a valuing of all components in our economy as well as our society.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

Rep Rap

On July 13, 1999 I voted to increase the minimum wage from the current level of $5.25 to $6.75 by the year 2001 during a debate on the matter in the House of Representatives. Approximately 100,000 people in the Commonwealth are earning the minimum wage. Most minimum wage employees work more than twenty hours a week for $5.25 an hour. In fact 66 percent of these workers are women and 61percent are adults. Therefore, a majority of employees who will benefit from the increase in the minimum wage will not be teenagers who want to buy a new car or go to Florida for spring break, but people who need to earn enough to put food on their table, buy their children decent clothes and pay their rent and utility bills.

If you are working full-time you should not be poor, but in the last thirty years there has been a loss of minimum wage purchasing power. If there was ever a time to raise the minimum wage, it is now. Labor markets are tight and raising the minimum wage will have virtually no negative impact on unemployment.

The measure that passed would institute a seventy-five-cent-an-hour in-

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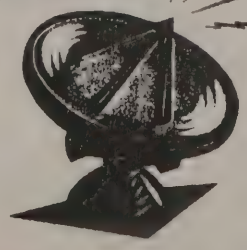
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crease over each of the next two years. During the debate, I proposed that the hourly minimum wage be indexed which would have automatically increased the minimum wage with the rate of inflation. This measure was voted down. Last year the Legislature voted to index its own salaries, this should have been extended to minimum wage workers as well. Also dropped from the proposal was an amendment that would have guaranteed the minimum wage to waiters and waitresses. These hypocritical actions discriminate against hard working people who have not received the benefits of our strong economy. Now the House and Senate versions of the minimum wage bill go before a conference committee to iron out the differences.

The term working poor should be a contradiction in this land of plenty. Working full-time should lift people out of poverty. The increase in the minimum is an overdue victory for working men and women in the Commonwealth.

As always if you should have any questions about this, or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 243-0289.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

A sketch of "Quiet Paths, Other Places" showing how Ruth McDowell designed the landscape to extend into the quilt's border, which is created with lighter colors.

Have Needle; Will (Time) Travel

Quiet Paths, Other Places

A quilt doesn't have to be created by a family member to have sentimental value. A deep affection for a piece one "simply loves" will do it; so will receiving one as a gift. Both these criteria apply to Pam and Bill Johnson's quilt, "Quiet Paths, Other Places," which was a wedding present.

The large forest landscape (68½"x90½") glows with subtle earth tones, calm neutrals, and is filled, like a holiday pudding, with sweet surprises: plaids, coral, bright green, white. Created by Ruth B. McDowell, one of today's most prominent quilt artists, the piece has a place of honor and a wall of its own in the Johnsons' living room.

In 1986 McDowell, feeling "trapped in the grid of quilt blocks" she had explored in earlier work, developed a fabric-piecing technique that uses large sheets of gridded technical vellum in the design process. Her first piece made with the new technique is the Johnsons' quilt, which McDowell completed in 1987.

Any time spent in contemplation of "Quiet Paths, Other Places" opens a door to a magical kingdom we all can enter. It's called Within. McDowell's quilt suggests that the landscape of Within is majestic, abundant, large enough for adventure, yet close enough for daily excursions.

If you have the opportunity, and if you can tolerate turning your back to the windows, which look out over Pam's hillside gardens above Stevens Lake, you can drink in the serenity of "Quiet Paths, Other Places" directly. But if you don't know the Johnsons, you can still enjoy McDowell's work, even take a photo of "Quiet Paths, Other Places" home with you. It's on page 82 of the book *Ruth B. McDowell,* the first in the "Art & Inspirations" series by C&T Publishing (ISBN 1-57120-015-0.)

— MaryKate Jordan

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Brewer Pond

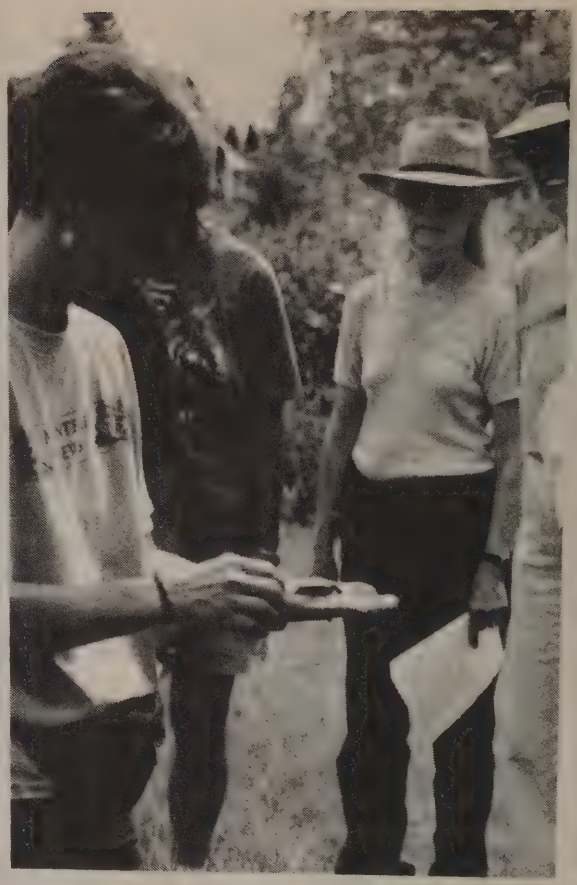
Tales from the Trail

I am just back from Brewer Pond where I installed the improved temporary trail-guide box loaded with preliminary maps and guides. This box, which once held clementines, is tied to a post by a shoelace, with a piece of ziploc bag taped to the front in case of rain. We are in the early stages with the Brewer Pond Nature Trail, but we did have our Preview Hike, or First Guided Walk, last month on "I Love Monterey Day." It was 95 degrees plus humid (heat index off the charts), and I wondered if anyone would show up when the public beach was so near, so beckoning. I was pleased and proud when twenty-five people and one well-behaved dog (not mine) turned up to scout the trail. How lucky I am to live in a community that shows so much interest in a new nature trail, on such a hot day.

About ten years ago Bob Rausch blazed and cleared a trail around Brewer Pond, and ever since then I have gone there once or twice a year leading small groups of people on nature walks. The trail got a little obscure over the years, especially the part of it that looped down onto a sandy shelf that was once intended to become the Town Beach, on the north side of the pond. Some parents remember that time, now twenty-five years past, when they left Lake Garfield, crossed the road, and hiked through the woods with their kids and towels to go to swimming classes on Brewer Pond. You can still see remnants of a log bridge over a brook and a kind of corduroy road path through a seepy place.

The Brewer Pond beach plan had to be abandonned after a good try. People wanted to be by the big lake, with deeper water and grander vistas from the beach. Swimming classes moved back to the lake and the Brewer Pond shelf began to grow up in brambles, blueberries, bay, spirea, and Russian olives. There are little larches there, white pines, red maples, speckled alders, and cattails by the water's edge.

For years I pushed through this growing jungle, sometimes followed by hikers who were shorter than the shrubbery. We would make it down to the water, admire the joe-pye weed and the cattails, look for geese, and then elbow our way back upslope into the woods. Now, after a couple of days with the clippers, there is a narrow trail across the old beach shelf. One day when I was working there I backed right into trouble with a paper wasp nest about the size of a softball.



© JoAnn Elam

Bonner McAllester with young painted turtle and hikers on Brewer Pond Nature Trail

At the first sting I dropped my tools and took off, my dog Ruby dashing along in front. She had about decided that trail work was more boring than staying home, but this was looking like fun. We crept back and got our tools. I mapped a temporary detour and pondered the situation. It looked like this nest was about one-wasp big, so I decided on relocation. I returned twice by day to negotiate with the owner, but in the end I had to sneak back at night with two flashlight bearers and a full suit of armor. By this time I knew there were more like eight warrior residents and they would not talk. In my rainpants,

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Bob Rausch, Bonner McAllester, and butterfly surveyors from the Connecticut Butterfly Asssociation, Brewer Pond Nature Trail

moosehide gloves, and bee veil I was bold enough to move the small piece of twiggery, with softball and sleepy residents, to a new home away from traffic. This was Eminent Domain at work, I know, but my mind was clear about it.

My only other mishaps in a month of intermittent trailwork have been in the nature of self-inflicted lacerations, close calls with sharp blades. While working I have thought so much about the little trail, composed in my mind so many paragraphs for "stop and read" stations, that I can't believe I ever thought I knew the place until now. Last month on that hot day we were lucky enough to see a tiny painted turtle, this year's hatchling paddling like mad for deep water. (We sent mental messages warning of winter drawdown when Brewer Pond is a frozen mudflat. Turtles hibernate in the mud and rely on a full pond to keep them from freezing.) When we got around to the spillway, an engineered low place beside the dam, we saw a couple in broad-brimmed hats gently sweeping the tall black-eyed Susans with long nets. They were from the Connecticut Butterfly Association, part of an annual count, and they had found fourteen different species of butterflies in less than an hour.

Two days later I went back to replenish the trail guides, and the spillway had been mowed. The image remains, for me, of that graceful couple (the man had a sleeping baby hung on his front) gently catching, identifying, and releasing the bright summer butterflies of Brewer Pond. I guess they'll go over to the north side, now, to sip nectar and lay their eggs near the warrior wasps. I hope the little turtle makes new plans as easily next October when Brewer Pond rushes down river for the winter.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Join the Konkapot Stream Team

Konka-what? The name might be hard to pronounce, but the Konkapot River needs your help. The Community Watershed Initiative, a project of the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA), is looking for residents who are concerned about the future of the river. The focus of the Konkapot Stream Team is to empower community leaders and citizens so they can play a larger role in identifying the river's problems and then formulating practical solutions. A training course will be given on how to do shoreline surveys, so no experience is necessary, just an interest in the well-being of the river. For information about the next meeting, please call the Housatonic Valley Association at 637-3188.

— Nicole Waldheim

◆

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Nature's Art

The term *cosmic ecology* is probably not known by many people now, but it may be soon. It was coined by Mr. Ed Farrell, Academic Dean of White Mountains School in Littleton, New Hampshire, to refer to the concept that virtually all human efforts in the arts are somehow directly or indirectly inspired by the spirituality expressed in the phenomena of the natural environment. What is new in Mr. Farrell's formulation of this concept—and of course the idea that nature inspires art has long been with us—is that it brings in the understanding of ecology that has developed and gained widespread support in last fifty years. And even those of us who are not artists often try to express this concept when we design and plant a flower garden so that the different blossoms and colors will be complementary, or landscape our yards to accentuate the inherent beauty of a particular place, or build a dry stone wall by placing large stones just so for the desired aesthetic effect.

The origin of creativity in nature is probably what Henry Wadsworth Longfellow had in mind when he prefaced *The Song of Hiawatha* by saying that he found his inspiration "where the heron ... feeds among the reeds and rushes," "in the bird's nests of the forests, in the lodges of the beavers."

We know that the literary giants who lived and wrote in the Berkshires, and there were many—to name just a few, Edith Wharton, Herman Melville, and Nathaniel Hawthorne—found great inspiration in the hills around them, and even talked among themselves about the creative energy that radiated from the cobbles for their benefit. The chiselled and weathered face of Monument Mountain inspired the poetry of William Cullen Bryant and attracted the studio of Daniel Chester French, where he reflected the mountain in his sculpture of the rugged features of Abraham Lincoln that now look out from the Lincoln Memorial.

If we think of Mother Nature as a real person, and she has often been spoken of that way, she has proven herself as a woman for all seasons. In the summer she plays out her maternal role by orchestrating a symphony of flora and fauna across the landscape, creating subtle interrelationships that nurture and protect each new kit, cub, fawn, pup, and fledgling of the season. In so doing, she is artistic in every way, waving her paint brush to create a sea of grass in the meadows, weaving a tangle of vines in the hedgerows, and covering the treetops with a quilted canopy of foliage, all of which hide and protect the future yearlings of almost every wild species. Her decorative ability includes a clever coordination of colors to cover each newborn fawn with a camouflage pattern of white spots, obscuring its outline from predators, and then wiping it clean of any telltale scent.

In almost every department, Mother Nature would be a master of arts, crafts, and music, and she has taught her skills to mortal humankind. Her illustrious pupils include the Hudson River School of painters; favorite sons would include John James Audubon, who excelled in making exact likenesses of indigenous birds, and the photographer Ansel Adams, who was able to capture mirrored images of the beauty of the Rocky Mountains and the Sierras. Others, such as the Impressionists, put their own spirit into their images of the intricate

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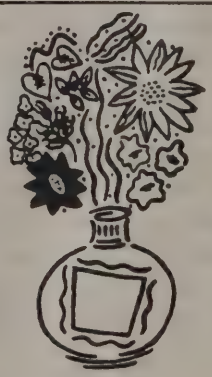

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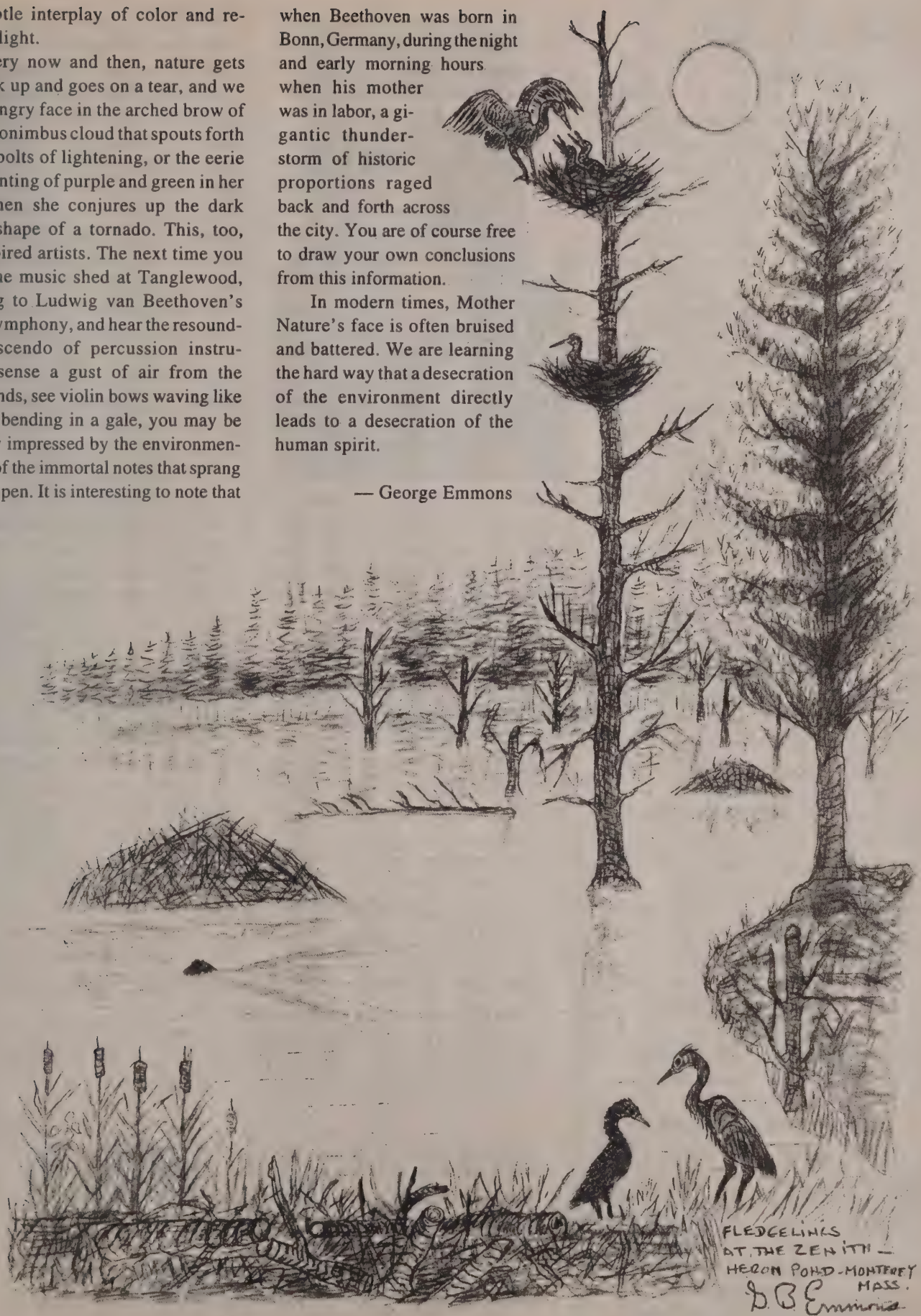
and subtle interplay of color and reflected light.

Every now and then, nature gets her back up and goes on a tear, and we see an angry face in the arched brow of a cumulonimbus cloud that spouts forth jagged bolts of lightening, or the eerie light glinting of purple and green in her eyes when she conjures up the dark funnel shape of a tornado. This, too, has inspired artists. The next time you are at the music shed at Tanglewood, listening to Ludwig van Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, and hear the resounding crescendo of percussion instruments, sense a gust of air from the woodwinds, see violin bows waving like treetops bending in a gale, you may be similarly impressed by the environmental fury of the immortal notes that sprang from his pen. It is interesting to note that when Beethoven was born in Bonn, Germany, during the night and early morning hours when his mother was in labor, a gigantic thunderstorm of historic proportions raged back and forth across the city. You are of course free to draw your own conclusions from this information.

In modern times, Mother Nature's face is often bruised and battered. We are learning the hard way that a desecration of the environment directly leads to a desecration of the human spirit.

— George Emmons



Heaven Lies about Us

Evalyn Stafford

In April 1999, Evalyn Stafford, a sensitive and eloquent biographer of her family and Monterey, died at 81 in Arizona. She came to Monterey in 1921 when her father became resident forester of Swann Forest, the 900-acre tract that was later incorporated into the 20,000 acres of Beartown State Forest.

Together with her three brothers Evalyn grew up in the comfortable farmhouse of the Swann estate, which had been deeded to the Commonwealth in 1918. A quarter of a mile up the hill was "Swann Lodge," reserved for visiting forestry dignitaries. Bill and Evalyn came at the ages of six and three, respectively; the two younger boys, Gordon and Shelton, were born in the original Fairview Hospital in 1924 and 1927.

Evalyn's book, *Heaven Lies about Us* (a quotation from Wordsworth's "Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood"), resulted from the Stafford family's discussion of how they would like to record the pleasures of their unusual forest and farm childhood. She had the opportunity to retire to a cabin on a river in Sebec, Maine, and take up the pen of family historian.

The book is a lyrical account of awakening perceptions of the natural world, of wildlife and pets, summer guests and expeditions to favorite places in the woods, fishing, camping, winter sports, going to Fenway summer camp on Lake Garfield, and to school in Monterey and Great Barrington. There are descriptions of Christmas pageants at the Monterey church, expeditions to Pittsfield for shopping and the movies, visits to relatives, sailing vacations on the coast, and joyous returns to Swann Forest.

For several years the two older children were home schooled by Earle and Edith Stafford. They had a basic introduction to the natural sciences, especially botany, as their father experimented with exotic forest plantings. Earle had studied at Harvard and the Sorbonne, and had learned a love of words from his father, the actor William Stafford. The children learned eloquence and enunciation and a

deep love for poetry, adventure stories, and great literature. They read from Ernest Thompson Seton to Shakespeare, and their studies included French and mathematics.

"Something interesting was always going on ... Dad talking brilliantly on every subject, covering all the 'ologies' from astronomy to zoology. We heard about metaphysics, Einstein, and evolution.... Dad would usually bring a subject up with a short dissertation; Mother always had something interesting to contribute, and Bill and I would have questions, and perhaps eventually some hypothesis to suggest."

After graduating from Searles High School in 1936, Evalyn went to New York City, took business courses, and ended up working for J. Walter Thompson, the largest advertising agency in the world.

Edith died in 1939, and Earle retired in 1941. Following several nostalgic years of visits to places where he and Edith had lived, he settled in Santa Barbara, California, on a mountaintop overlooking the city and the ocean. He entered a thirty-year period of extraordinary creativity, which included learning Greek and Latin. He studied Native American culture and collected early recordings of their music, and he continued his lifelong writing of poetry and essays on nature and his philosophy of life. He died peacefully at 89, in 1976.

After the interruptions of World War II, Evalyn, Gordon, and Shelton traveled together to Santa Barbara to be near their father. Bill was already there, and in 1952 the three brothers graduated together in the same commencement at the University of California at Santa Barbara! Earle was a delighted spectator. In 1964 the family honored Edith by donating in her name an eighty-acre tract of woodland abutting Swann Forest to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Evalyn had a stimulating interlude of four years in Paris, working for a branch of J.W.T. and with side trips to sub-branches in Rome and Frankfurt. Then, in 1954, she settled back in Santa Barbara in a twenty-five-year job in adult education, followed by eighteen years of lively retirement. Her engagement in reading, writing, genealogy, wildlife and pets, sketching and gardening, also included work on *Heaven Lies About Us.* She was stimulated to return to it by articles in the 1980s in the *Monterey News* about Beartown Forest. She wrote for her family and the book exists only in manuscript form, but she kindly sent a copy to the Monterey Library. The book includes a

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gallery of photographs of the family and early days in Swann Forest.

During Evalyn's last illness, Gordon wrote a poem to the family reflecting wishes she had often expressed:

Evalyn—To Her Loved Ones

When I no longer know myself,
Please open wide your hand and let me go.

But, before you do, hold me softly as a bird
Which took a shining window for the sky
And dropped, dazed, on the gentle grass below.
You heard the blow and sweetly held me close.

I feel my heart-beat throb against your hand,
My wings enfolded by your fingertips.
I would forever stay like this.
I never knew that life's embrace could be so dear.

But now I sense the time is near,
My dazed mind slowly overcome,
As though I beat against an endless glass
And fall and fall again to ever-harder ground.

Despite your love, I no longer know myself.
Please, dear one, open wide your hand and let me go.

As I rise, I will turn and look below
To all the precious love I briefly leave behind.
But it shall soar, too, in my heart.
You and I shall be forever one.

— article by David McAllester

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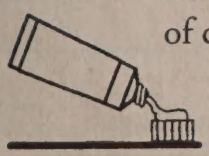

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About Astrology
The Lion King

Leo and Leona, the stone lions who flank the Fifth Avenue entrance of the New York Public Library, may be the only Leos who each seem content as part of an identical matched set. But that's because, as stone, they don't need us. The zodiac's Leo is not like that.

Whether he sees life as a tragedy or comedy, Leo is comfortable under the hot lights that illuminate center stage. Is that why he chooses to arrive between July21 and August 20, the Northern Hemisphere's full hot summer?

The new lion cub usually announces his arrival with a loud and healthy roar. No mewling here; just a powerful, "It's the real, unique, and only me!" Or so Leo would have his audience believe. It takes a compassionate ear to hear what the cub is really saying. He'd prefer to have his unspoken "And where are you?" interpreted as a territorial imperative. It's just too embarrassing for him to have anyone actually hear the day-old baby in mother-longing.

He'll tell you he's just letting folks know who's the star of the show. But he'll time your applause. If it doesn't go on at least a little longer than last time, he might start losing sleep

You'll never know it, though. It's a jungle out there, and, Coeur de Leon or Cowardly Lion, he's sure he has a great role to fulfill in the scheme of things.

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But all that scurrying around in crown and cape demanding homage gets exhausting. If the other jungle beasts would just drop to their knees and honor his rightful place at the top of the heap, he could stop acting like a king and just be himself. But, mostly, they don't, and, too often, he doesn't.

If only he could see how brave he really is, underneath that show. If only he'd use that courage to love himself more than any role he fulfills. Then he'd come to understand what those who love him realized long ago. Simba or circus performer, the Lion is really the king of hearts.

— MaryKate Jordan

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Personal Notes

Happy Birthday on August 2 to **Chelsey Smith**, on August 4 to **Gabriella Makuc**, on August 5 to **Katie Kopetchny**, on August 6 to **David McAllester**, on August 7 to **Ann Burns Smith**, on August 9 to **Patrick Sheridan**, on August 11 to **Justin Makuc** and **Ian Quisenberry**, on August 15 to **Katie** and **Sarah Olds**, on August 20 to **Michelle Grotz** and **Zachary Transport**, on August 24 to **Amanda Thorn** and **Henri Morrison**, on August 26 to **Ann McGinley**, and on August 30 to **Rick Mielke**.

Anniversary wishes go out on August 19 to **Tom** and **Jane Thorn**, on August 22 to **Bill** and **Maureen Meier**, on August 23 to **Stefan** and **Stephanie Grotz**, on August 28 to **Tom Morrison** and **Pam Gauthier**, and on August 29 to **Jeff** and **Hannah Moran**.

Mount Everett Regional School recently issued its Honor Roll for the fourth quarter, and I noticed some Monterey residents among those listed. Among those who earned High Honors were **Christina Vallianos** in seventh grade, and **Hannah Bracken** and **Katie Vallianos** in tenth grade. Honors were earned in eighth grade by **Cody Rosenthal** and **Claire Mielke**, and by **Kimberley Gero** in tenth grade. Well done, all of you!

Oriana Raab graduated in May from Simon's Rock College of Bard with a double major in Cetacean Studies, and French and Francophone Studies, and received honors for her senior thesis. At the end of July she began an internship at the Florida Keys Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center in Key Largo. Congratulations, Oriana!

On July 17, **Colm Higgins** was one of a small group of Berkshire Children's Chorus members taking part in the Tanglewood Music Center's performance of three scenes from Alban Berg's opera, *Wozzeck*. **James Conlon** conducted the very exciting and moving piece, and it was a wonderful experience both for the audience and for the children involved in the performance.

We enjoy hearing your news, and passing on birthday and anniversary greetings. If you have any you would like to share, please write me at P. O. Box 351, Monterey, MA 01245, before the twelfth of each month. Thank you so much.

— Ann Higgins

Welles H. Sellew, Jr.

Welles H. Sellew, Jr., of Branch Road, New Marlborough, died at home on July 23. Born on August 30, 1920, he graduated from Adelphi Academy in Brooklyn and attended Colgate University for three years before enlisting in the Army.

He served as a first lieutenant in World War II and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with cluster and Purple Heart. He was a general contractor and a vocational education teacher at Mount Everett for almost twenty years. He had been a member of the New Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department and a co-founder of the New Marlborough Sportsmen's Club, as well as serving as a Boy Scout leader and a Little League coach for many years.

He leaves his wife, the former Catherine Spadaccini, a daughter, Susan Kay Sellew of Monterey, and two sons, John Hamilton Sellew of Monterey, and Sanjiban Welles Sellew of New Marlborough.

Although his primary residence was in New Marlborough, Welles was most at home in his Monterey log cabin. The New Marlborough Road property had been passed down through his family, and he built the cabin there in the early '50s. For the past ten years Welles and his wife have headed out every Wednesday morning to deliver Monterey Chèvre. He also grew blueberries sold at the General Store.

Peter S. Vallianos
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Calendar

Every Sunday through Sept. 5, Worship Service, 8:30 a.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Church, junction of Routes 8 & 23 in Otis. Services are held in the historic summer chapel housing an original pulpit and artifact from the Old North Church in Boston. All are welcome. Information, Eleanor Hamill, 413 528-0905.

Wednesday, August 4, Trail crew morning at Brewer Pond. Meet at the New Dam, 9:00 a.m. Be prepared to get your feet wet. Stepping stone project in two brooks plus purple loosestrife removal. Lemonade and cookies provided—bring your own bug dope. Call Bonner for more details, 528-9385.

Wednesday, August 11, Trail crew morning at Brewer Pond. Meet at the Town Beach on Tyringham Rd., 9:00 a.m. Project today is snowfence removal from road bank on Pond side of road. Bring wire cutters, shovels. Lemonade and cookies provided. Bring personal bug dope. 528-9385 for details.

Friday, August 13, "Writers Read," New Marlborough Meeting House, Rte. 57, New Marlborough, 6:30 p.m. Local writers, including Monterey's Alice O. Howell and Nicki Heron, read from their works. Information 413 229-2119.

Sunday, August 15, "Vikki True & Friends," outdoor concert at the Roadside Store & Cafe, Rte. 23, Monterey. Roadside BBQ will include ribs, salad, vegeterian food, burgers, desserts. Suggested donation, $5 for entertainment. A Family event. Information 528-1804.

Monday, August 16, La Leche League, 10 a.m.–noon, Guthrie Center, Gt. Barrington. Free advice and support for breastfeeding. Info Maureen 528-6619.

Tuesday, August 17, Blood pressure clinic, 9–10:30 a.m. in basement of Town Offices, Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Wednesday, August 18

Trail crew morning at Brewer Pond. Meet at New Dam, 9:00 a.m. to start installing short posts and number markers. Tools, lemonade, and cookies provided. Do your own bug dope. Bonner, 528-9385.

Gould Farm and the Pittsfield Mets will co-host a "Strike Out Stigma" baseball game, 7:00 p.m., Waconah Park, Pittsfield. Tickets include admission, hamburger/hotdog, soda, and chips—all for $5.75. Join us in celebrating mental health awareness in the Berkshire community. Call Mark at 413 528-1804 before August 15 for tickets.

Friday, August 20, Monterey Historical Society meeting and guided tour of the gardens at "*Ashintully*" in Tyringham 6:30 p.m. Meet at the parking area east of the intersection of Monterey Road and Main Road in Tyringham. Visitors welcome, but must preregister, 528-3698.

Saturday, August 21, "Gardens: Historic & Contemporary," 2:00 p.m. at The Bidwell House, Art School Road, Monterey. Talk and tour that will compare the four time periods of The Bidwell House heirloom garden, from 1750 to 1999. Admission: free. Information 413 528-6888.

Wed. Aug. 25, Trail crew morning at Brewer Pond. Meet at New Dam, 9:00 a.m. for short post installation. Tools, cookies, lemonade provided. Info. 528-9385.

Friday, August 27, Needlework Lecture, 4:30 p.m. at The Bidwell House, Art School Road,. Lecture & slide show on history of needlework by historian Dr. Pat Warner. Admission $7. Info 528-6888.

The Observer
June 26—July 25

High temp. (7/7)	94°
Low temp. (7/12)	49°
Avg. high temp.	84.7°
Avg. low temp.	59.2°
Avg. temp.	72.0°
High bar. press.	not available
Low bar. press.	not available
High wind gust	not available
Total rainfall	6.12"
Water temp., L. Garfield (6/27)	75°

Precipitation occurred on 12 days.
Over 3" of rain on 6/29 and 6/30.

Wind and barometric pressure statistics not available because weather station was hit by lightning and is temporarily out of service.

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Saturday, August 28

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Peter Amidon. All dances are taught, and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults $5, children $2. Information 413-528-9385.

Keepsake Embroidery Workshop, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at The Bidwell House. Admission is $35, which includes materials. Class limited to 12 so please reserve early. Art School Road, Monterey. Information 413 528-6888.

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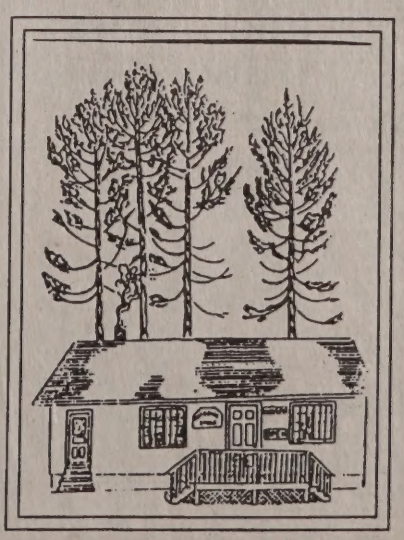

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Contributions from local artists this month: George Emmons, p. 19; MaryKate Jordan, p. 15; Glynis Oliver, pp. 15, 21.

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